

fact sheet



Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act

Issue: Dedicated Access Privilege Programs

Overview: A dedicated access privilege (DAP) fishery management program provides an individual fisherman, cooperative, or community the exclusive privilege of harvesting a quantity of fish. In a DAP program, each recipient of a fishing privilege can use its share of the harvest quota at any time during the fishing season. The Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) currently authorizes only two forms of DAPs—individual fishing quota programs, and community quotas (specifically authorized in two geographic areas). Current DAP programs have resulted in increases in per-unit product value and decreases in total harvesting cost, and have also provided fishermen with greater control over when to fish, thus improving safety. This flexibility also allows them to improve profitability by harvesting fish when prices are most favorable.

The Administration's U.S. Ocean Action Plan calls for expanded use of market-based approaches in fisheries management, such as DAPs, while simultaneously ensuring the Regional Fisheries Management Councils have the necessary flexibility to implement such programs.

Proposal: The major provisions of the Administration's DAP proposal include:

- **Categories of DAPs:** Authorizes and defines DAPs to include individual fishing quotas, fishing cooperatives, community quotas, and area-based quotas.
- **Policy Objectives and Safeguards:** Mandates directives to help ensure equity, and address the issues of economic performance, community impacts, eligibility, and excessive shares.
- **Allocations and Transfers:** Standards and procedures governing initial DAP allocations and the transferability (sale or lease) of quota shares, including a requirement that each DAP program establish a policy on share transferability and establish a program to track privileges.
- **Cost Recovery:** Clarification of current authority for cost recovery to help cover the costs of management, science, data collection and analysis, observer coverage, and enforcement activities in a DAP fishery.

Purpose: Amending the Magnuson-Stevens Act to authorize a broader range of DAP programs, with appropriate controls and guidelines, will provide fishery managers with an additional tool to improve fishery management and enhance the economic performance of the nation's fisheries. Since 1990, NOAA and the Councils have implemented DAPs in eight fisheries that together have an annual ex-vessel value over \$600 million. Commercial fishermen have enjoyed increased profits, decreased costs of gear and labor, longer fishing seasons and a safer and more

stable industry. This portion of the Administration's MSA bill will provide the Councils with as much flexibility as possible, within reasonable constraints of national policy, to design market-based management programs that meet the diverse needs of the program participants.